

lives of firefighters. At present, manufacturers of emergency equipment can sell their products with no government testing or certification requirements to ensure their product meets the needs of firefighters. A January 2003 Consumer Reports article, "Safeguards Lacking for Emergency Equipment," highlights the lack of standards problem. The article reports "Firefighter organizations, which also represent most of the Nation's emergency medical technicians, say they worry that no law requires fire departments to buy equipment certified for use against chemical or biological agents." In a September 10, 2002 story in *The Washington Post* Arlington County, Virginia Chief raised concerns about the lack of equipment standards, as well as the lack of guidelines for training the workers charged with responding to future terrorist attacks. Plaugher stated, "Without clear goals, we risk undermining ourselves while wasting precious resources."

The second objective of the bill addresses mutual aid systems. The Firefighting Research and Coordination Act directs the Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration, in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Director, to provide technical assistance and training to State and local fire service officials to establish nationwide and State mutual aid systems for responding to national emergencies. The Administrator, in consultation with the FEMA Director, will also develop model mutual aid plans for both intra-state and interstate assistance. An important example of why model mutual aid systems are important to establish comes in part, as a response to the September 11th attacks and to wildfires that have raged in the west.

On July 23, 2002, Titan Systems Corporation issued a report on behalf of the Arlington County, Virginia fire department. The report found that self-dispatching fire and emergency crews were favorable in some respects, but were also detrimental. For example, the report states that the Arlington County fire department "faced the monumental challenge of gaining control of the resources already onsite and those arriving minute-by-minute." The report goes on to say that, "firefighters and other personnel came and went from other Pentagon entrances with little or no control. Thus, had there been a second attack, as occurred at the World Trade Center, it would have been virtually impossible for the Incident Commander to determine quickly who might have been lost."

The third objective of the legislation permits the Superintendent of the National Fire Academy to coordinate with other Federal, State, and local officials in developing curricula for classes offered by the Academy. This section of the bill illustrates what new classes and training opportunities the Academy is authorized to offer its students. For example, the Academy will now be able to train fire personnel in: strategies for building collapse rescue, the use of technology in response to fires; including terrorist incidents and other national emergencies; response, tactics, and strategies for dealing with terrorist-caused national catastrophes; applying new technology and developing strategies and tactics for fighting forest fires, and other important response strategies.

Over one million students have received training at the National Fire Academy. Since its inception in 1975, the Academy has helped

firefighters gain vital education and training to the benefit of the American public. The Academy's courses are taught at a facility in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Its online courses and co-operation with local colleges and universities expand the reach of the Academy to thousands of firefighters across the Nation.

With the Nation recovering from acts of terrorism, mammoth wildfires, and the possibility that other national emergencies may arise in the future, America's firefighters deserve nothing less than quality educational opportunities and training to prepare for these, and other types of disasters. We saw with the World Trade Center that building collapse rescue is a critical component of a firefighters job. In a December 1, 2001 article that appeared in *Fire Chief* magazine, a member of the Michigan Urban Search and Rescue team stated that while the Federal government has spent millions of dollars to train local first responders with weapons of mass destruction, little if any focus has been placed on building collapse rescue. "For some time now, I have advocated that every State should have a structural-collapse response that includes an Urban Search and Rescue (US & R) task force system," stated the Michigan firefighter. The firefighter went on to say that, "The FEMA US&R system does little to help with the initial response to structural collapse incidents." This example offers another reason why the curricula at the National Fire Academy should be expanded to include courses on building-collapse rescue and other strategies.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation enjoys wide support among many of this Nation's fire groups and bipartisan support here in the House of Representatives. My colleague in the Senate, Senator MCCAIN will introduce companion legislation today in the United States Senate. I am hopeful that this important bill will be swiftly enacted in the 108th Congress.

#### TRIBUTE TO EVELYN BOWLES

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Evelyn Bowles of Edwardsville who was appointed to the Illinois State Senate in May of 1994 and was elected by an overwhelming margin in November of 1994; she has served this body with distinction throughout her 8½ years as a member.

During her terms in the Senate, Senator Bowles served as the Democratic spokesperson of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee, the Local Government and Elections Committee, the Licensed Activities Committee and the State Government Operations Committee.

Senator Bowles has also served on the Committees on Agriculture and Conservation, Executive, Transportation, the Legislative Information System, the Legislative Printing Unit, and the Legislative Research Unit.

Senator Bowles has amassed numerous legislative accomplishments which have enhanced the quality of life for the people of her Metro East district and all of the people of the State of Illinois, including new penalties for individuals convicted of illegally possessing the chemicals used to manufacture methamphet-

amine, the regulation of reprocessing certain single-use surgical devices, more funds for the Spinal Cord Injury Paralysis Research Fund, and the requirement of coverage for the replacement of child safety seats if those seats were in use at the time of an accident.

Senator Bowles will long be remembered for her commitment to the success of Illinois' agriculture community; in an effort to find a "third crop" to insert into our traditional corn and soybean rotation, she sponsored legislation directing the University of Illinois to study the re-introduction of industrial hemp in Illinois, a once important crop in Illinois because of its versatility.

Senator Bowles was elected to five consecutive terms as the Madison County Clerk and brought to the Senate knowledge and expertise that was often called upon when questions arose concerning local government and election laws in Illinois. It was in that office which I worked with her closely. Her countless appearances at the office counter gave constituents a real glimpse of personal service by their elected officials. In her dealings with me, a member of the opposition party, she was always professional, courteous, and determined to place the best interests of the citizens first.

Senator Bowles served her nation as a member of the United States Coast Guard Women's Reserve Intelligence Division during the Second World War and is a member of the American Legion Post #199 and The Auxiliary. She was also a former teacher.

We offer our best wishes to Senator Evelyn Bowles upon her retirement from the Senate and we offer her hope for a rewarding future.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE LAND EX- CHANGES IN ARIZONA'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#### HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 2003*

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Congressman J.D. HAYWORTH and myself, I rise today to introduce legislation to facilitate two land exchanges in the Tonto and Coconino National Forests in Arizona's First Congressional District. Congressman J.D. HAYWORTH sponsored similar legislation in the 107th Congress that unanimously passed the House.

The legislation authorizes the Montezuma Castle land exchange and the Diamond Point land exchange. In the Montezuma Castle land exchange, the Forest Service will acquire a 157-acre parcel of private land adjacent to Montezuma Castle National Monument and the 108-acre Double Cabin Park parcel, both in the Coconino National Forest.

An Arizona partnership, the Montezuma Castle Land Exchange Joint Venture, will acquire approximately 122 acres of National Forest System land adjacent to the town of Payson's municipal airport. The town of Payson has entered into an agreement to purchase a portion of this land to create private sector business development and job opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, this exchange will protect riparian areas along Beaver Creek, the viewshed for the Montezuma Castle National Monument, and it will transfer Double Cabin Park to Federal ownership.